

STATE OF IOWA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
UTILITIES BOARD

IN RE: OFFICE OF CONSUMER ADVOCATE, Complainant, vs. MCI WORLDCOM, INC., Respondent.	DOCKET NO. FCU-03-21
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ORDER ASSIGNING TO ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE

(Issued March 29, 2004)

On March 24, 2003, the Consumer Advocate Division of the Department of Justice (Consumer Advocate) filed with the Utilities Board (Board) a petition for a proceeding to impose civil penalties against MCI WorldCom, Inc., pursuant to Iowa Code § 476.103 (2003), for an alleged violation of the Board's slamming rules.

On January 26, 2004, Consumer Advocate filed a status report as requested by the Board in an order issued January 20, 2004. In its report, Consumer Advocate stated that the parties were discussing a possible settlement in this matter.

On February 20, 2004, the Board issued an order delaying further action in this docket until February 27, 2004, so as to allow the parties an opportunity to pursue a settlement in this matter. The Board has not received any indication that a settlement has been reached. Therefore, pursuant to Iowa Code § 17A.11(1)"b"

(2003) and 199 IAC 7.1(4), the Board will assign this matter to its administrative law judge (ALJ) for further proceedings. The ALJ will, among other things, set a hearing date, preside at hearing, and issue a proposed decision.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

Pursuant to Iowa Code § 17A.11(1)"b" and 199 IAC 7.1(4), this docket is assigned to the Board's administrative law judge, Amy Christensen, to conduct a hearing and issue a proposed decision. The administrative law judge shall have the authority provided under 199 IAC 7.1(4)"a" through "j."

UTILITIES BOARD

/s/ Diane Munns

/s/ Mark O. Lambert

ATTEST:

/s/ Judi K. Cooper
Executive Secretary

/s/ Elliott Smith

Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 29th day of March, 2004.